



PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting on Monday 3rd August 2026.
Held at Robertsbridge Youth Centre, 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Sean O'Hara; Cllr David Todd; Cllr Gaynor Leeves

Also in Attendance: Karen Ripley (Clerk); Cllr Sue Prochak (Rother District Council)

General Public: None. **Press:** None **Presiding:** Cllr Sean O'Hara

Public Questions and Comments – there were no members of the public present.

- 1. Apologies and Reasons for absence** - were received and approved for Cllrs Natalie Bishop, Francesca Dulley and Mark Hamilton.
- 2. Declaration of interests** – in accordance with the 2012 Code of Conduct, Cllr David Todd declared a personal interest in an application at 6.2 – RR/2026/0873/HOU, Hackwoods Bungalow, Willards Hill, as the applicant / property is a neighbour. He was not required to leave the room.
Whilst not involved in the decision making, for transparency and openness, the Clerk advised Members that the applicant for RR/2026/0746/HOU, 65 Heathfield Gardens is a family member (nephew).
- 3. Applications for Dispensation** – none.
- 4. Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 6th July 2026 – the Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.**
- 5. Matters Arising from previous Minutes (for information only)** – none.
- 6. Planning Applications**

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Parish Council Comment</u>
RR/2026/0746/HOU	65 Heathfield Gardens, Robertsbridge, TN32 5BD Proposed two storey extension to side of existing dwelling	General Comment: The Parish Council has no objections in principle but has a concern over any loss of off-road parking. We expect RDC to consider this.

<i>Cllr Todd declared a personal interest in the following application RR/2026/0873/HOU as the applicant / property is a neighbour.</i>		
RR/2026/0873/HOU	Hackwoods Bungalow, Willards Hill, Robertsbridge, East Sussex, TN32 5ET Accessible Entrance Ramp and Steps with Porch to Provide Protection from Weather.	Support Approval by RDC The Parish Council has no objections to the application
RR/2026/0558/FULL	Hairfayre, 22A High Street, Robertsbridge, East Sussex, TN32 5AQ [Formerly Mustard] Application to demolish existing structure. Replacement shop with apartment above.	Support Approval by RDC The Parish Council considers the design to be good and in keeping with the High Street. We recognise that it would need careful oversight throughout demolition and rebuilding with regard to keeping the highway clear and accessible.
RR/2026/0529/FULL	Honey Plum Farm, Beech House Lane, Salehurst, Robertsbridge, East Sussex, TN32 5PN Retrospective application for erection of deer fencing and gates. [amended plans/business plan submitted July 2026]. Support Refusal by RDC The Parish Council strongly objects to the amended plans and reiterates our previous objection to this application, which still stands: “Further to our objection to previous applications including RR/2025/58/FN, the Parish Council is extremely disappointed that this planning application proposes development on this contentious rural site protected by Article 4 Direction within the High Weald Landscape. For over twenty years we have repeatedly expressed our concerns about development on this land. Furthermore on principle we disapprove of retrospective applications. If Rother is minded to approve this application we ask that measures are put in place to ensure close monitoring of activity on the land. If it is found that activity on the land is not appropriate we would expect enforcement action to be taken.”	

7. Decision Notices Received

NOTIFICATIONS OF DECISIONS BY ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL	
RR/2026/0189/LBC	Church Farm House, Church Lane, Salehurst, TN32 5PJ Replacement of patio doors in rear extension Support Approval by RDC The Parish Council has no objections to this application provided the Rother Planning Officer is happy to approve the application. 26/3/26 Approved (Conditional) <u>Consent</u> 10/76/26

RR/2026/0663/RVC	Grove Farm, George Hill, Robertsbridge, East Sussex, TN32 5AZ Variation of condition 3 imposed on RR/2022/1850/P to exclude the commencement of works below ground. Support Approval by RDC The PC supports this application; it believes these works are vital to investigate and establish appropriate drainage / water works. 6/7/26 Approved (Conditional) Decision Notice 20/7/26
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8. **Salehurst & Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Plan Review** – Cllr O’Hara advised that he is reviewing the previous draft and will circulate to the Planning Committee before the next Planning Committee meeting.

9. **Any other business (for Information only)**

- **Enforcement issues**

RDC New Enforcement Strategy - Members discussed the further consultation, via RALC, with parish councils regarding the new Enforcement Strategy. It was agreed that the Parish Council recognised the constraints that apply to enforcement and had no comments to submit. Cllr Todd to advise RALC.

- **Conservation matters**

High Street brick pavers – Cllr Todd advised that work on replacement bricks for any future repairs is ongoing and that there is a desire to move quickly if CIL funding is to be applied for, as it is not known what will happen after Local Government Reorganisation when RDC will no longer exist.

- **Medical Centre**

Members queried the status of the new Medical Centre. The Clerk advised that details will be in the Patient Participation Group minutes, available on the Oldwood Surgery website. Cllr Prochak agreed to check.

[Cllr Prochak subsequently advised that at the last meeting of the PPG on 6 July it was reported that the site had been cleared, building work is to begin shortly with completion at the end of 2027.]

The meeting closed at: 8:05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....